







DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling

**For Your Information...**

## Plastic Bottle Recycling

### Plastic Bottle Recycling 101

Many of the things we use every day are made from many different types of plastic. But more than 95 percent of all plastic bottles we use are made from two types of plastic: either PET  (like soft drink and water bottles) or HDPE  (milk containers). All plastic bottles are recyclable, but you need to check to see what types are recycled in your community. Most communities collect PET  and HDPE  plastic. Look for the numbered code on the bottom of the container to see what type of plastic it is. **Refer to the chart on the back of this sheet to learn more about plastics.** Bottles of all sizes can be recycled. Remember it's important to recycle those individual beverage bottles (12-, 16-, and 20-ounce) that you buy at convenience stores.

### How to Recycle Plastic Bottles

- Take off the cap and properly discard it.
- Rinse and flatten to eliminate contamination and save space in your bin.
- Recycle by putting it in your recycling bin or taking it to a recycling center.

### Buy recycled plastic, too.

Many things can be made from recycled plastic.

Recycled PET bottles can be made into:

- polyester carpet;
- T-shirts and sweaters; and
- Fiberfill for sleeping bags and winter coats.

HDPE bottles can be made into:

- landscape products;
- garden furniture; and
- playground equipment.

### S.C. Partnership on Plastics Recycling

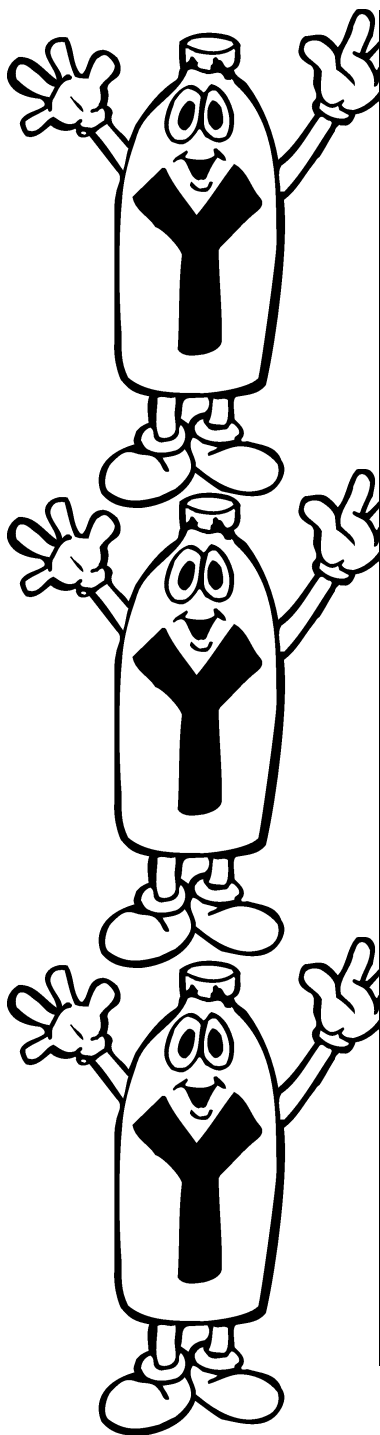
The S.C. Partnership on Plastics Recycling was formed in 1998 to develop education and awareness efforts, improve markets for recovered materials and help build the infrastructure necessary to efficiently collect a wide variety of plastics.

Projects have included the development of a 15-second public service announcement for television and a plastics recycling poster for schools as well as sponsoring America Recycles Day statewide newspaper inserts and efforts to improve reporting from local governments and assisting with a statewide recycling survey.

Members include the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling, the Recycling Market Development Advisory Council, the S.C. Energy Office, the U.S. Postal Service (Greater S.C. Cluster), the S.C. Soft Drink Association, the American Plastics Council, the National Association for PET Container Resources, the University of South Carolina and Wellman, Inc.

For more information on the partnership's activities, call **1-800-768-7348**.





NUMBERED CODE	NAME AND CHARACTERISTICS	ITEMS MADE FROM THIS PLASTIC	PRODUCTS MADE FROM THIS RECYCLED PLASTIC
	<b>Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET):</b> Clear, strong, holds carbonation	Soft drink, beer, water, mouth wash, salad dressing and ketchup bottles and peanut butter containers	Fiber, tote bags, bottles, clothing, furniture, carpet and car upholstery
	<b>High Density Polyethylene (HDPE):</b> Clear or bright colored	Milk, water and juice containers, trash bags, liquid detergent bottles, yogurt and margarine tubs	Liquid laundry detergent containers, drainage pipe, oil bottles, recycling bins, benches, pens, dog houses, vitamin bottles, floor tiles, picnic tables, lumber, mail box posts and fencing
	<b>Vinyl (polyvinyl chloride or PVC):</b> Clear, strong, resistant to oil, grease and chemicals	Clear food packaging, shampoo bottles, medical tubing, wire and cable insulation	Packaging, binders, decking, paneling, roadway gutters, mud flaps, flooring, cable, speed bumps and mats
	<b>Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE):</b> Clear, flexible, easy to shape	Bread bags, frozen food bags, some squeeze bottles, fiber, tote bags, clothing, furniture and carpet	Shipping envelopes, garbage can liners, floor tiles, furniture, compost bins, paneling, trash cans, landscape timber and lumber
	<b>Polypropylene (PP):</b> Strong, chemical resistant, will not scratch	Ketchup bottles, yogurt containers, margarine tubs and medicine bottles	Auto battery cases, battery cables, brooms, brushes, ice scrapers, oil funnels, landscape borders, rakes, bins, pallets, bicycle racks and trays
	<b>Polystyrene (PS):</b> Clear, rigid or foam	Compact disc jackets, grocery store meat trays, egg cartons, aspirin bottles, cups and plates	Thermometers, light switch plates, thermal insulation, egg cartons, desk trays, rulers and carryout containers
	<b>Other:</b> Package is made with a resin other than the six listed above or of more than one resin used in combination	Three- and five-gallon water bottles, citrus juice and ketchup bottles	Plastic lumber and custom products

For more information about plastics recycling, call DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling at **1-800-768-7348**.



DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling FYIs provide general information on environmental topics. Readers are encouraged to reproduce this material. For more information about solid waste issues, please call **1-800-768-7348** or visit our Web site at [www.scdhec.net/recycle](http://www.scdhec.net/recycle). Please send written correspondence to: DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201.